



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hidetoshi YOSHIKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1742

Application No.: 10/823,629

Examiner: J. ROE

Filed: April 14, 2004

Docket No.: 119092

For: COLD-FORMED SPRING HAVING HIGH FATIGUE STRENGTH AND HIGH CORROSION FATIGUE STRENGTH, STEEL FOR SUCH SPRING, AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SUCH SPRING

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

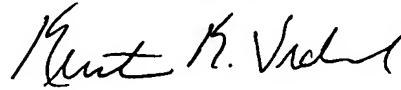
Sir:

In reply to the November 16, 2006, Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 9-12, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-12 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 (stating that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added)). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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